

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 24, 2017



PHOTO BY STEVE ELLIOTT

Joint Base San Antonio military members remove debris from Salado Creek at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 18 during the 2017 Basura Bash.

Hundreds volunteer at 2017 Basura Bash

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Regular blood donations save countless lives

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AETC's first civil service maintenance group activates

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Crime and punishment at JBSA

JBSA JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

During the month of January, Joint Base San Antonio commanders administered 12 nonjudicial punishment actions under Article 15 of the uniform Code of Military Justice.

The punishment imposed reflect the commander's determination of an appropriate punishment after considering the circumstances of the offense and the offender's record.

A "suspended" punishment does not take effect unless the offender engages in additional misconduct or fails to satisfy the conditions of the suspension. The suspension period usually lasts for six months unless a lesser amount is specified.

The following are some of the nonjudicial punishment

actions that closed out in January.

Drunk driving: A master sergeant, while on temporary duty to Germany, operated an automobile while intoxicated. The member received a reduction to the grade of technical sergeant and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty, willful: A staff sergeant in an inpatient treatment program failed to refrain from having intimate physical contact with another patient there. The member received a suspended reduction to the grade of senior airman, forfeiture of \$314 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

Drunk driving: An airman first class operated an automobile while intoxicated. The member was also found to have an open container of alcohol in the vehicle. The member re-

ceived a reduction to the grade of airman, suspended forfeitures of \$878 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty, willful (underage drinking): An airman basic in technical training was derelict in their duty to refrain from drinking alcohol while under the age of 21. The member received suspended forfeitures of \$724 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

Disrespect to an officer, disrespect to an NCO: A master sergeant used profane and disrespectful language toward a captain and a senior master sergeant while being verbally counseled. The member received a suspended reduction to technical sergeant, forfeiture of \$1,886 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

False official statement: A staff sergeant altered their official Community College of the Air Force degree and master's degree transcripts. Moreover, when questioned on the matter, the member lied. The member received a reduction to senior airman, suspended forfeiture of \$1,241 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

Disorderly conduct: A staff sergeant urinated on a hotel carpet while attending a unit holiday party. The member received 30 days extra duty (suspended) and a reprimand.

Larceny: An airman first class in technical training stole two bottles of cologne from the AAFES Base Exchange. The member received a reduction to the grade of Airman (suspended), forfeitures of \$210 pay per month for one month and a reprimand.

JBSA programs help members kick tobacco

By Senior Airman Stormy Archer

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

According to AFI 40-102, Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Tobacco use degrades Air Force readiness, health and leads to preventable health care costs."

Members of Joint Base San Antonio Health Promotion Services are offering resources to JBSA personnel to help kick those butts to the curb for good.

"We want to provide the least amount of barriers for people to quit smoking," said Aracelis Gonzalez-Anderson, 359th Aerospace Medicine Squadron health promotions program coordinator. "It not only improves your health, but the health and wellbeing of those around you."

Gonzalez-Anderson cited time and distance as two of the biggest barriers keeping tobacco users from taking advantage of resources at JBSA.

Health Promotion Services members addressed this barrier by allowing JBSA members to take advantage of any tobacco cessation program at any JBSA location.

Members looking to quit can contact the Tobacco Cessation Program at 916-7646,



COURTESY OF AFMC HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM

the Behavioral Health Outpatient Program, and the Freedom Quitline at 1-844-426-3733, or make an appointment with their primary care manager for medication and counseling to help quit the habit.

"Different people require different kinds of help to quit; that's why we offer many different resources," Gonzalez-Anderson said.

AFI 40-102 also states that tobacco use is limited to designated tobacco use areas and DTAs must follow a minimum distance standard. DTAs must be greater than or equal to 50 feet from building entrances, pedestrian walkways, parking lots, dining areas and athletic grounds and greater than or equal to 100 feet from playgrounds.

Medical treatment facilities shall be tobacco free. MTF campuses are defined as the area surrounding the clinic or hospital, to include parking structures and lots, lawns and other outdoor areas contiguous with the MTF.

According to Smokefree.gov, Quitting smoking can help most of the major parts of the body. Nicotine receptors in the brain will return to normal levels after about a month of quitting.

Cilia start to regrow in the lungs and regain normal function very quickly after someone quits smoking. The human body is more likely to fight off colds and infections when cilia are working properly.

Quitting smoking will prevent new DNA damage from happening and can even help repair the damage that has already been done. It is also the best way to lower the risk of getting cancer.

"Quitting not only improves your health, but the health and wellbeing of those around you," Gonzalez-Anderson said. "Let's make the social norm be one of not using tobacco products, and let's live a healthier lifestyle by choosing to quit."

JBSA LEGACY

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JBSA commemorates first military flight

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 2 marks the 107th anniversary of the first military aerial flight taken by Army Lt. Benjamin Foulois when he boarded the "Signal Corps 'Aeroplane' No. 1" and circled Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field.

To commemorate the occasion, there will be several events held at 11 a.m. March 2. Retired Air Force Col. James F. Humphries Jr., a former test pilot for Air Force and Fairchild Aircraft Corporation will be the guest speaker. Music will be provided by the Junior Air Force ROTC of Floresville High School's 'Cadet Chorale' directed by retired Lt. Col. Steve Rakel. Posting of the

colors will be by the Floresville ROTC unit's Color Guard.

Foulois graduated from the Army Signal School in 1908 and first learned to fly on Army Dirigible No. 1, a lighter-than-air engine-propelled airship. He later participated in the trials of the Wright Flyer with the Wright brothers. During the trials, Foulois was on board in the observer's seat of the Wright Flyer with Orville Wright and clocked the airplane's landmark 10-mile flight time that qualified that airplane for acceptance into the Army.

In February 1910, then-Lieutenant Foulois was transferred to Fort Sam Houston with a team of enlisted men known as his "flying Soldiers" and the Army's only airplane,

"Army Airplane No. 1." Here, he learned to fly it himself, aided by instructions in letters from the Wright brothers. Foulois said that he was a "mail-order pilot" who had learned to fly through his correspondence with the Wright brothers.

Then, on March 2, 1910, at Fort Sam Houston, Foulois climbed aboard Army Airplane No. 1, and at 9:30 a.m., circled the field at a speed of 30 mph, attaining an altitude of 200 feet. The flight only lasted for 7½ minutes.

Foulois made four flights that day, crashing on the last flight due to a broken fuel pipe. The premier flight became known as the "birth of military flight" and he became known as the "father of U.S. military

aviation."

"I made my first solo, my first landing, and my first crackup — all the same day," Foulois said.

Foulois was relieved from flying duties in July 1911, and returned to aviation duty with the Signal Corps Aviation School at North Island, San Diego, Calif., in December 1913. He later commanded the 1st Aero Squadron in Mexico during the campaign to arrest Pancho Villa in 1916.

He served as chief of air service, Air Expeditionary Force, in France from 1917 to 1918. Foulois was in charge of the materiel division at Wright Field in Ohio from 1929 to 1930, and on Dec. 20, 1931, became chief of the Army Air Corps. Foulois retired from active military service Dec. 31, 1935. He died April 25, 1967.



COURTESY PHOTO

The 107th anniversary of the first military aerial flight taken by Army Lt. Benjamin Foulois will be observed March 2, when he boarded the "Signal Corps 'Aeroplane' No. 1" and circled Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Parade Field.

Array of classes highlights JBSA Military Saves Week



RUTH MEDINA

Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle (center), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, signs the Military Saves Week proclamation Feb. 10 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Some 20 sessions chosen to educate Department of Defense cardholders on a variety of financial topics, from the new Blended Retirement System to credit management, are planned Feb. 27-March 3 throughout Joint Base San Antonio.

A readiness initiative authorized by the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, Military Saves Week's emphasis is saving for the future.

"Military Saves Week is an annual opportunity for organizations, local partners and installation banks and credit unions to promote good savings behavior and a chance for service members and their families to assess their own saving status," said D.C. Lanier, JBSA-

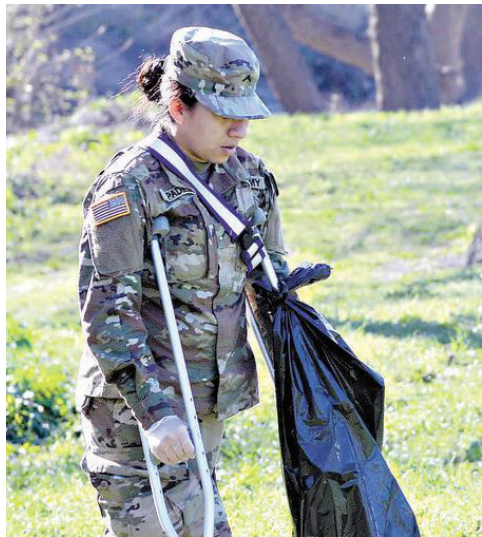
Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center work/life specialist. "It's a time to focus on financial readiness, including the reduction of debt and saving toward personal and family goals."

Military Saves Week kicks off with an overview of the Thrift Savings Plan from 9-10 a.m. Monday at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC and concludes with a retirement planning session from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 3 at the JBSA-Randolph M&FRC. In between are a variety of sessions ranging from "The Future of Banking" to "Are You a Smart Consumer?"

Most of the sessions are scheduled at the JBSA M&FRCs or JBSA-Lackland's Gateway Club, but the IMCOM Theater at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston will

CLASSES continues on 18

Hundreds volunteer for 2017 Basura Bash



PHOTOS BY STEVE ELLIOTT
Pvt. Jacqueline Padilla of Company G, 232nd Medical Battalion, didn't let crutches stop her from helping Feb. 18 at the 2017 Basura Bash at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

By Steve Elliott
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After the thick fog lifted from over the Salado Creek Park area on

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in the early morning hours of Feb. 18, more than 400 eager volunteers took to the banks and the waterways to clean out tons of

accumulated debris and trash from the length of creek that runs through the installation during the 2017 edition of the annual Basura Bash. The Basura Bash is a

one-day, all-volunteer event to clean the San Antonio Watershed. The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Basura Bash is a part of

BASURA continues on 5



Col. Dave Abraham, U.S. Army South, reaches to extract debris from Salado Creek at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Feb. 18 during the 2017 Basura Bash.

JBSA-Camp Bullis prescribed fires

Prescribed fires will be carried out through Feb. 28 at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis. This will be done under strict weather and fuel moisture conditions to allow for a safe burn. The

goal is to reduce vegetative fuel loads and decrease potential wildfire intensity and sustainment. The fires will also maintain areas for training, reduce maintenance costs and improve land for wildlife. For details, call 295-8339.

BASURA

From page 4

a larger effort throughout San Antonio where local residents, community groups and orga-

nizations collect trash at 20 different locations connected to San Antonio's watershed.

"Each of you are making a difference in your community today," said Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd Air Base Wing

and Joint Base San Antonio commander. "It really matters that each one of you got up and got out here on a Saturday morning to make your community a better place. Even one piece of litter out of the

water makes a difference"

A steady flow of volunteers came and went from the park area throughout the morning, each determined to be a part of something bigger than themselves and make a difference

in the appearance of the creek and park areas. Entire families made a morning of the event. The military was well represented with hundreds of Soldiers – including approximately 150 combat medic trainees – Sailors and Airmen working throughout the morning to clear out a year's worth of accumulated debris.

"I firmly believe in what we do here at the Basura Bash," said retired Army Col. Mary Garr, a former 502nd Mission Support Group commander at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and a veteran of every Basura Bash held so far. "What we do here is just one small, but important, part of what is going at all the Basura Bash events throughout San Antonio to help clear our waterways of garbage and debris."

Volunteers took to the water to clear garbage from Salado Creek Feb. 18 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston during the 2017 Basura Bash.



FORT SAM HOUSTON

ARNORTH's Task Force 51 prepares for disaster

By Sgt. 1st Class Shelman Spencer
U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers and civilians assigned to Task Force 51, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, spent a week conducting a key exercise to strengthen the foundation of their mission at the Rudder Reserve Center in San Antonio Feb. 6-10.

TF-51 is Army North's contingency command post and conducts a Defense Support of Civil Authority, or DSCA, homeland defense and theater security cooperation in order to promote the defense and security of the United States.

Many organizations and agencies come together in a unity of effort when disaster strikes in the U.S. and the planning and rehearsals are important to ensure everyone understands the mission and capabilities.

"There is no time to be at the party and just now rehearsing because it's for the American people, it's for our people, our

communities, our citizens," said Lt. Col. Kirsten F. Swanson, G3 and deputy chief of staff, TF-51, Army North (Fifth Army). "To best understand that we have to come and readdress that together, even though were in different uniforms that say U.S. Army or U.S. Navy or U.S. Air Force or civilian. We have to come together and have that conversation and what it means to operate in our own country."

Communication is key for true success of the mission and to get assets where they are needed for the American people. Matt Hopper, a telecommunications specialist for Army North's Sentinel mobile communications platforms makes that happen.

"With our capabilities we can come in and set up within just a few hours, from move in to full operations is pretty fast," Hopper said. "We can push data to customers within 15 to 30 minutes of arriving and then we can layer it out and have a fully



SGT. 1ST CLASS SHELMAN SPENCER

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) Task Force 51 staff members conduct a commander's update brief for Maj. Gen. Brian Harris, Task Force-51 commander, during a staff training exercise Feb. 9 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

functioning command post."

Sgt. 1st Class Rashida N. Williams, a military police officer who is the noncommissioned officer in charge for current operations and serves as the Joint Operations Center NCOIC forward when Task Force-51 is called on to respond and support a disaster effected area.

TF-51 coordinates federal response when requested by the state where the disaster occurred. The federal forces and equipment augment the

state's National Guard and other agencies.

"We are able to come out in the event of a natural disaster. They don't always have the capacity with regards to air support, search and rescue and those assets that are needed," Williams said. "Our job at Task Force 51 is to command and coordinate those Title 10 assets coming in, so we can alleviate those pressures on the state. We are here to support and provide timely and lifesaving measures with active duty per-

sonnel."

This exercise was a prelude to an exercise in Atlanta in March. In that scenario, local, state, federal and Department of Defense agencies will come together to work out issues that surround hurricanes disaster and relief along the eastern coast line.

"It's all about Americans helping Americans. The importance of the job is that we have the best clientele in the world - our own citizens of our country," Hopper said.

Soldiers act as 'battle buddies' to students

By Jose Rodriguez
AMEDDC&S PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When a Soldier says, "I've got your six," it means they have your back, or more broadly, that your battle buddy is backing you up. For students at East Terrell Hills Elementary School, their battle buddy is the 264th Medical Battalion.

Seeing Soldiers is always a familiar welcome treat for the students. Therefore, it came as no surprise when the battalion's Soldiers delivered more than

\$3,000 in school supplies to the school Feb. 7.

Lt. Col. Werner J. Barden, 264th MED BN commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Carlissie Y. Jones, along with other members of the battalion, presented the supplies to the first-grade students and teachers. For the students, it was chance ask about being a Soldier and why each of them joined the Army. The students were especially interested in each Soldier's jobs and their uniform patches.

"The students and teachers needed supplies at this time of the school year," Barden said. "It's about a 50/50 split between student and teacher supplies. Teachers and students normally begin a new school year with the supplies need to execute their mission. We start to see a need and impact after the holiday season, when supplies run low and money is diverted elsewhere."

"This is where we believe we

SOLDIERS continues on 18



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Staff Sgt. Christopher Magnuson from the 264th Medical Battalion shows East Terrell Hills Elementary School students how to see bacteria under a microscope Dec. 2 during the school's career day.

Conference of American Armies meets in Canada

By Sgt. Jeremy Odom
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Canada seems to be one of the favorites when hosting the Conference of the American Armies and for the second time in three years, another specialized conference finds its way north.

Thirty-seven delegations from 13 nations, including Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, Army South commanding general and the acting Secretary General for the Conference of American Armies, gathered in Toronto Feb. 6-9. Hosted by the Canadian Army, the four-day gathering was one of nine conferences in the two-year cycle led by the U.S. Army.

"The objectives included sharing lessons on how we operate with interagency stakeholders, other governmental departments, etc.," said Canadian army Col. Marc Lafortune, conference secretary. "For example, Chile is currently conducting significant firefighting

in their country and are interacting with municipalities, provinces and other governmental departments, so this is a great venue to share all the lessons learned."

The focus of the event was "Training for the Interagency Environment." When the conference series completes, the lessons learned will culminate with an exercise in November, hosted by the Chilean army.

"We have to have knowledge of how different organizations, governmental and non-governmental, work, how they think, operate and what their capabilities are," said Chilean Army Brig. Gen. Edmundo Villarroel, education division commander. "We also have to provide them with the knowledge of our own capabilities."

The delegates, working in small groups, discussed their particular army's specialized role and shared their interagency operations experiences.

They also spent this time to define their partnership agreements with one another.

Topics such as environmental considerations, operational level planning and training for expeditionary operations, were part of these discussions which ultimately led to the agreements.

Lafortune called the conference a success and said the objectives were met. He was happy to hear the visitors appreciated the diversity of the briefs and shared experiences.

"It's really about the intellectual content of the conference, and that's what our army commander wanted to ensure happened here; so it would stimulate discussion," Lafortune said.

The week closed in a ceremony with all members in attendance signing the discussed agreements. Once the conference officially closed, the group participated in a cultural event by visiting the Royal Ontario



MASTER CORPORAL PRECIOUS CARANDANG
Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn (center), Army South commanding general and acting Secretary General for the Conference of American Armies, leads a discussion Feb. 9 in Toronto.

Museum.

The CAA consists of 20 members from North and South American armies who collectively determine the course of action of the organization. It also

currently has six observer armies of which five are applying for membership.

The army of the Dominican Republic is scheduled to lead the conference series next year.

U.S. Army South honors 'Old BAMC'

By Sgt. Summer Woode
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The hallways once echoed with the sounds of crying babies and metal carts. A lot has changed in 80 years.

Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn, U.S. Army South commanding general, and retired Maj. Gen. Floyd Baker, M.D., former commander of Brooke Army Medical Center, spoke at a ceremony Feb. 3 celebrating 80 years since the construction of the historic Old Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, affectionately known as "Old BAMC."

"In many ways, Old BAMC is a living legacy that has touched and shaped thousands of lives for nearly a century," Chinn said. "This building is about people. The people who were treated here and the peo-

ple who did all that was humanly possible to give care and comfort to the sick or injured. No place did it better than Old BAMC."

The eight-story building, originally named Station Hospital, was constructed in 1937 and opened in 1938 with 418 beds and was built for a total cost of \$1,485,080.58.

After World War II began, the hospital was upgraded to a general hospital and renamed after the late Brig. Gen. Roger Brooke, who commanded the Station Hospital from 1929-1933 and performed the first routine chest X-ray in military medicine, making him one of the most notable figures in internal medicine.

Forty-one years later, Baker came to Old BAMC in 1974 as a brigadier general. Now 89, the ex-surgeon shared stories of his time as commander and re-

called the view from his south-east corner office in the winter.

"If you haven't had the opportunity to see those sunrises, it's a sight to see," Baker said.

The audience laughed as Baker recalled the challenges of the past. The three buildings were a mile apart and various departments scattered, making transferring patients a critical situation.

"We called it the 'miracle mile,'" Baker said, referring to the distance between the emergency room to the intensive care unit. "We did not lose a patient en route, so that was our miracle."

Baker said he and hospital staff wondered what was going to happen to the building after the hospital moved out. "We were really concerned about it. We are happy with the results."

The anniversary ceremony included Soldiers and friends



SGT. SUMMER WOODE
U.S. Army South and U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School leaders and guests cut the cake Feb. 3 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of building 1000, known as Old BAMC.

of Army South and people directly affected by the staff and patients of BAMC.

Col. Angela Mysliwiec, M.D., U.S. Army South command surgeon, spent time as a third-year medical student in Old BAMC. Now, more than 20 years later, Mysliwiec works in the same building with Army South.

"I was very excited to hear

Maj. Gen. Baker speak, because it really brought back memories. I experienced the 'miracle mile,'" she said. "I was actually with some of those patients who travelled back to the emergency room from the other buildings."

Mysliwiec now walks into the building daily with a sense of awe. "I was junior back then ... I didn't really appreciate it."

Army Emergency Relief campaign kicks off March 1, benefits Soldiers

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

The 2017 Army Emergency Relief kick-off campaign takes place at 10:30 a.m. March 1 at the U.S. Army North Quadrangle at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, with Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, AR-NORTH commanding general, as guest speaker. A reception at the Fort Sam Houston Museum will immediately follow the ceremony.

This year, Army Emergency Relief, or AER, celebrates its 75th Anniversary of dedication to "Soldiers helping Soldiers" by providing Soldiers and their families assistance for a wide variety of financial situations with no-interest loans or grants.

AER is a private non-profit organization with a mission to provide financial assistance to Army Soldiers in times of a valid emergency need. Last year, AER provided JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Soldiers and their families with \$654,933.82 in assistance, including loans of



\$587,742.97, grants of \$43,849.65 and partial loans and partial grants totaling \$23,341.20.

During the AER 2016 campaign, the community donated \$137,010.99. This year's campaign goal is \$150,000.

AER's scholarship program is a secondary mission to help Army families with the cost of education.

AER offers two scholarships: the Spouse Education Assistance Program and the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for Dependent Children.

The Spouse Education Assis-

"Helping the Army take care of it's own."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

tance Program provides need-based scholarships for Spouses of Soldiers. Recipients are eligible to receive scholarships for up to four years of full-time enrollment or eight years of part-time enrollment in an accredited college or university.

Funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, English as a Second Language and GED classes, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) tests.

Scholarships may not be used for second undergraduate degrees or master's programs. The

Ursano scholarship provides need-based scholarships for children of Soldiers. Recipients are eligible to receive scholarships for up to four years of full-time enrollment in an accredited college or university. Funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies and room and board. Scholarships may not be used for second undergraduate degrees or master's programs. For scholarship eligibility and how to apply, visit the AER website at www.aerhq.org.

The scholarship application timeline opened Jan. 1 with the deadline for all applications and supporting documents submitted online of April 1. Last year, AER awarded \$7.9M in scholarships to 4,149 dependent children and spouses of Army Soldiers. The average award was \$1,516 for spouses and \$2,065 for children.

For more information on the AER campaign, call the Installation Army Emergency Relief office at 221-1612.

FORT SAM HOUSTON BRIEFS

Joint spouses' forum

Date/Time: Feb. 28, 11 a.m. to noon
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
Open to all FRSAs, FRGs, Key Spouses, Ombudsmen and family program advisers to network and discuss issues. Call 221-2418 for more information.

Heroes at Home

Date/Time: Feb. 28, 9-11 a.m.
Location: Fort Sam Houston Theater
A free financial seminar is open to all DOD ID cardholders. To reserve a seat, call 221-2705. Walk-ins are welcome.

5k run/walk

Date/Time: Feb. 25, 5-9:30 p.m.
Location: MacArthur Parade Field
The third annual JBSA Glow in the Park 5K Run/Walk allows participants to enjoy lighting effects and themed party stations on this night course. A warm-up Zumba session begins at 6:45 p.m. Registration costs \$12. Participants receive a goody bag with T-shirt and glow gear. To register, go to the5kglowrun.com. For details, call 652-5763.

2017 Joint Services Luncheon

Date/Time: March 21
Location: Local venue
The Spouses' Club of Fort Sam Houston Area invites the Fort Sam Houston, Randolph and Lackland Spouses' Club members and their guests to the 2017 Joint Services "Celebrate Service" luncheon. Contact scsfshreservations@gmail.com for cost, time and location. All RSVPs must be received by March 7 and seating is limited.

Bringing Baby Home

Date/Time: March 8 & 22, 11 a.m. to noon
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
New parents are encouraged to attend this two-part workshop on preparing for a newborn baby's homecoming. To register, call 221-2418.

Blended Retirement System

Date/Time: March 13, 9-10 a.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
Review features of the new Blended Retirement System, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2018. Additional training is available at jkodirect.jten.mil.

Sensory-friendly movie

Date/Time: March 13, 1-3 p.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
The Exceptional Family Member Program and the Family Life Program welcome JBSA families to a sensory friendly showing of Disney's "Zootopia." Call 221-2418 for details.

BAMC celebrates 116th birthday of Army Nurse Corps

By Lori Newman

BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center held the 116th Army Nurse Corps birthday celebration Feb. 2 in the auditorium. This year's theme was "Leading readiness and professional practice: Getting it done since 1901."

"That's what we embody," said Col. Traci Crawford, BAMC deputy commander. "What an awesome opportunity to focus on that and to give us something to strive for as we continue to provide the best care we can to our service members."

Maj. Gen. Barbara Holcomb, chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, was the guest speaker for the event, which included a presentation of the Army Nurse Corps history featuring nurses dressed in period uniforms and a cake cutting.

"Truly leading readiness and profes-



JAMES CAMILLOCCI

Maj. Gen. Barbara Holcomb (left), chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and Army 2nd Lt. Jennifer Garcia, cut the anniversary cake Feb. 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

sional practice is what Army nursing has been doing for the last 116 years," Holcomb said.

Holcomb highlighted the fact that readiness is the Army's number one priority.

"We are in a live fire exercise every single day," she said. "We practice every single day when we are taking care of our patients, so every encounter is a readiness encounter."

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Johnson, BAMC commander, could not attend the ceremony so he recorded a video message to be played at the event.

In part, Johnson said, "Our nurses are the most prepared of any nurses in the military health system ... We couldn't do [our mission] without them."

Army Col. Margaret Nava, BAMC chief nursing officer and Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Crews closed the ceremony by thanking everyone for coming and thanking the individuals who helped put the event together.



Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

March

Arts and Crafts

Framing offers competitive pricing

The JBSA-Randolph Frame Shop, located in the Community Services Mall, building 895, offers 25 percent off selected frames March 1-31. Expert framers help with custom frames for special occasions and the shop matches any off-base price on comparable custom framing jobs. Plus, there is no sales tax. Estimates can not be provided over the phone. For more information, call 652-5142.

Bowling

Special priced bowling available during spring break

Make plans to visit the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center during spring break, March 6-9 and March 13-16. Bowl for the reduced rate of \$2.50 per person. Rental shoes are \$2.75. For more information, call 652-6271.

Bowling Madness event held

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center March 7-10, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., for Bowling Madness. Come out and bowl in a nine-pin no-tap bracket tournament. The highest score of a two game series receives a bowling ball and a three ball bag roller. For more information, call 221-3683 or 221-4740.

St. Patrick's Day brings bowling special

Join the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center March 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., for a Saint Patrick's Day special. All games and shoes are \$1 each and door prizes are given away. For more information, call 671-1234.

Lunch time bowling specials offered

Come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for lunch time bowling. The special bowling rate is \$1.50 per game, per person with \$1.50 shoe rental. For more information, call 221-3683 or 221-4740.

Clubs

Chef serves dinner specials at the Club

The chef at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club creates a special evening dining experience in the Mesquite dining room, 5-8 p.m., with satisfying menus for all. Cost is \$16.95 for members and \$18.95 for nonmembers. March 3, feast on New York strip steak with fried shrimp, duchess potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad and dessert. The menu for March 10 includes rib-eye steak with sautéed shrimp, baked potato, steamed broccoli spears, salad and dessert. March 17, enjoy rosemary crusted prime rib, twice baked potatoes, broccoli spears with Hollandaise sauce, salad and dessert. The March 24 menu includes a Texas t-bone steak topped with sautéed mushrooms, seasoned steak

fries, roasted corn on the cob, salad and dessert. Guests are treated to a special Surf and Turf dinner March 31 with lobster tail, bacon-wrapped filet mignon, macaroni and cheese, roasted asparagus spears, salad and dessert. The price is \$25 for members and \$27 nonmembers. For more information, call 645-7034.

Nightlife entertainment offered at the club

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for entertainment throughout March.

Kick off the beginning of the month March 3, 5-8 p.m., in the Maverick Lounge featuring DJ LJU. Enjoy bar food, cold drinks, good friends and music.

DJs spin favorite tunes at Variety Night, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., in the Lone Star Lounge. DJs include DJ J Rock on March 3, DJ Tony Style on March 10 and Doggin' Dave Productions on March 24.

Sing and enjoy entertainment at Karaoke Night in the Lone Star Lounge featuring DJ Dee Dee March 4 and 18, 8 p.m. to midnight.

Final Friday is March 31 with DJ LJU providing the entertainment. For more information, call 645-7034.

Sky Lounge hosts live entertainment

Stop by the Sky Lounge in the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club for musical entertainment provided by the Tobias Band March 3 and by Bimbo and Borderline March 24, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres 5-6 p.m. Admission is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information, call 652-4864.

Bingo is played throughout the month

Join JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club for Bingo Extravaganza March 6 and 20 with \$15,000 in total jackpots, a complimentary buffet at 5:30 p.m., and Early Bird bingo at 6 p.m.

Birthday Bingo is held March 14 in the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club. Birthday members receive one free machine, cake and champagne. This event is for Randolph club members only and ID and club card are required. For more information, call 652-3056.

March birthdays are celebrated with a buffet

JBSA-Randolph Parr Club offers a complimentary buffet every month for members with birthdays in that month. Members with March birthdays are honored March 15, 4:30-7:30 p.m., and the buffet includes salad, two vegetables, two starches, two entrées, soup and birthday cake. This is free for birthday members. Cost is \$11.95 for members without a birthday in March, \$5.95 for members' children, 6-12 years, \$13.95 for nonmembers and \$7.95 for nonmembers' children, 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat for free. For more information, call 652-4864.

Special lunch buffet offered for St. Patrick's Day

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club invites guests to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day March 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a special lunch buffet. Enjoy corned beef and cabbage, Sheppard's Pie, grilled stuffed pork chops with green peppers and onion strips, fried chicken, shrimp Alfredo with green fettuccine, whipped potatoes with brown gravy, buttered new potatoes, green beans almandine, corn O'Brien, soup, salad bar and freshly baked rolls. Desserts include green velvet cake, key lime pie, apple pie, bread pudding with bourbon sauce, green sherbet, St. Patrick's Day cakes and cupcakes. Cost is \$10.95 per person. For more information, call 645-7034.

Club celebrates St. Patrick's Day

Head to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club's Lone Star Lounge March 17 wearing green. DJ LJU spins tunes 5-6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Fourth Quarter Band entertains 6-9 p.m. DJ Tony Style provides musical entertainment in the Maverick Lounge 5-8 p.m. For more information, call 645-7034.

Guests fly in to the Auger

Join the party at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Auger Inn for "old school" camaraderie, free light refreshments and great music March 17, 5 p.m. Meet neighbors, folks from other squadrons and leadership. There is no cover to join the fun. For more information, call 652-4864.

Club appreciates members

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Customer Appreciation Night in the Fiesta Ballroom March 28, 5-8 p.m. with entertainment provided by Doggin' Dave Productions. Cost is \$10.50 for members and \$12.50 for nonmembers and the menu features a build-your-own salad bar, egg drop soup, Mongolian barbecue, chicken Gentle Home, rolled beef stuffed with broccoli, fried and steamed rice shrimp, lo mein, stir fried vegetables, egg rolls with plum sauce, ambrosia, lemon cake, cheesecake topped with mixed berries and fortune cookies. For more information, call 645-7034.

Community Programs

Skylark Community Center hosts flea market

Shop for bargains or treasures during the JBSA-Lackland Skylark Community Center quarterly flea market March 4, 8 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center parking lot. Enjoy shopping, food and music. Sellers can rent spaces for \$10. Tables are \$5 each. For more information, call 671-3191.

Iconic artists are captured in a musical

Stop by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin

JBSA FSS

Theater March 10 to April 8 to see "Iconic" by Shawn Kjos. "Iconic" is a music review featuring the greatest music icons of all time including Elvis, Tina Turner, Celine Dion, Stevie Wonder, Janis Joplin, Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Cher, James Brown and many more. Make reservations today. Group rates available. For more information, call 222-9694.

Harlequin theater hosts casting calls

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Harlequin Theater always welcomes new talent either behind the stage or on it. Actors are asked to do a brief monologue, one to three minutes, as well as a cold read from the current script. Anyone with knowledge of lighting or sound is welcomed to join. The Harlequin relies on the talents of volunteers. Please call to schedule a date and time. For more information, call 222-9694.

Equestrian Center

Horseback riding lessons offered

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers horseback riding lessons for beginners and advance riders in both English and Western-style riding. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified instructors. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons are provided if needed. Patrons must be at least 7 years old. The cost is \$60 per hour for a private lesson, \$175 for five group lessons, \$225 for five semi-private lessons and \$250 for five private lessons. For more information, call 224-7207.

Trail Rides are for all ages

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers trail rides for patrons 7 years and older for \$30. Departures are at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays by appointment only. No experience required. Adults must accompany children under 13 years. Riders must be at least 4 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds. For more information, call 224-7207.

Pony rides available

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers parent-led pony rides Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for patrons 6 years and younger for \$10. Adults must accompany their children and availability is on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, call 224-7207.

Fitness

Bikers are challenged

All bikers are invited to participate in the 15-mile bike ride at JBSA-Randolph Eberle Park March 4, 7:30 a.m. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Fitness Center events are open to all valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 652-7263.

Bracket contest hosted by Fitness Center

Join the Fitness Center on the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical Education and Training Campus for a brackets

contest March 14. Brackets must be submitted before the start of the first game. \$200 in prizes are awarded to the first-, second- and third-place finishers. One bracket per customer. For more information, call 808-5709.

Runners and walkers celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Join the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center for a Saint Patrick's Day 5K run or walk March 17, 7:30 a.m., at Eberle Park. This event is sponsored by Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Fitness Center events are open to all valid Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information, call 652-7263.

APRIL 8 FAMAGANZA 10 AM to 10 PM

Face painting, henna, tattoos, games, arts & crafts, raffle, and a prize drawing for a family vacation.

For more information, call 652-2088

Logos: RBFCU, FORCE

Basketball players play in tournament

Participate in a three-on-three basketball tournament at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center March 18, 9:30 a.m. Teams consist of three players and an alternate player. This event is free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders 18 years and older. If an individual does not have a team, event coordinators can assemble a team the day of the event. Register at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center no later than March 10. For more information, call 221-1234.

Men and women compete in lifting challenge

The Fitness Center on the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Medical and Education Training Campus hosts a 1,000- and 500-pound challenge March 18. Men lift 1,000 pounds and women lift 500 pounds. Bench press, dead lift and squat totals are combined to calculate the total weight lifted. Participation in this challenge is free and all Department of Defense ID cardholders, 16 years and older, can join. Pre-

register at the METC Fitness Center. For more information, call 808-5709.

Golf

Golfers compete in a scramble

Golfers are invited to play in the monthly JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Warrior Four-Person Scramble March 3, with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers and includes green fee, golf cart, prize money and a social after the round. For more information, call 222-9386.

Junior golf league starts for youth

The 2017 season of the Professional Golf Association Junior League starts March 15, 5 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course. PGA Junior Golf provides youth, 6-13 years, with a structured league environment for young golfers to compete and have fun. Participants receive team jerseys, golf balls and PGA JLG bag tags, season competitions plus coaching, practice and more. This program includes a fun team scramble format for players of every skill level. The league fee is \$75 per youth. For more information, call 222-9386.

Golf lessons offered

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course March 20-23 for the Get Golf Ready classes and learn a sport that lasts a lifetime. Sign up for the classes by March 17. Cost is \$150 per person. For more information, call 671-3466.

JBSA-Lackland Skylark Aquatics Center

TRAIN TO SAVE

Lifeguard Certification Course

March 11-14
\$160 per student

- Course is 32 hours
- Ages 15 & older
- Students must pass prerequisite swim test
- American Red Cross certifications in CPR, Lifeguard, First Aid and AED will be issued upon passing the course

For information, call 671-3780.

Equipment demonstration offered for golfers

Join JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course March 18 for a free Demo Day. Multiple vendors are on site

to demonstrate golf products with special purchase rates available. For more information, call 671-3466.

Couples' fun tournament held

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course hosts a couples' fun tournament March 19, 1 p.m. Come out to enjoy an afternoon on the golf course. The cost is \$30 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. The cost includes green fee, cart, prize fund and social after the event. For more information, call 222-9386.

Spring fling golf scramble

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course March 24, 12:30 p.m., for the 2017 Spring Fling Golf Scramble. This is a four-person event. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. The cost includes carts, prizes and a social after the event. Please call to sign up. For more information, call 222-9386.

Spring brings on Randolph Dual

Join the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course for the Spring Randolph Dual March 25-26, with 7-9 a.m. tee times. This is a two-person event; day one is a scramble and day two is a shamble. It is pre-flighted based on Golf Handicap and Information Network®. A barbecue lunch is provided by Carl Null and Son, after the first round Saturday and golfers have a chance to win golf merchandise during a drawing. All golfers who place in this tournament receive a certificate for pro shop merchandise. Cost is \$90 for members and \$125 for nonmembers and includes green fees, cart fees, lunch Saturday, a prize drawing, a goody bag and gift certificates for the placing teams. For more information, call 652-4653.

Golf madness match play offered throughout March

JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts Golf Madness Match Play throughout March. Players draw a team from the National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Tournament and participate in this match play, double point tournament. Cost is \$30 per person. For more information, call 671-3466.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Disney® offers discounts to military

Patrons can purchase tickets from the JBSA Information, Tickets and Travel locations. Disney® is once again providing the Military Salute Tickets to eligible service members and has extended special admission tickets for active-duty military and retirees through Dec. 19, 2017, which means tickets must be used by Dec. 19. The number of tickets that can be purchased is six per military member or retiree ID card. The military member or retiree must accompany their party at the gate to activate the tickets. New this year to the DisneyWorld® Salute tickets is a five-day ticket. Cost for the four-day ticket ranges from \$207 to \$244. The 5-day ranges from \$222 to \$259. Each price is per person. ITT also carries Disneyland® three-day park hopper admission tickets for \$155 and Disney® has added a four-day hopper for \$180. Both parks have blackout dates so please inquire about the dates prior to purchase. For more information, call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston ITT at 808-1378 and the JBSA-Randolph ITT at 652-5142.

Discounted sports tickets available

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Information, Tickets and Travel office offers discounted Spurs, Rampage and Stars tickets. Discounted tickets are also available online by going to <http://spurs.com/fortsamhoustitt> and using the discount code: FORTSAM. For more information, call 808-1378.

7-night resort vacation rental offered

JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets, and Travel has information on the Armed Forces Vacation Club, a "Space A" vacation condominium rental program, which offers accommodations around the world for \$349 for a seven-night stay when booked online. There is no membership fee, no dues and no gimmicks, just a great vacation value for members of the Uniformed Services. Go to www.afvclub.com to search for available resorts. Call 1-800-724-9988 to reserve a condo. For more information, call 652-5142.



COWBOYS FOR HEROES
APRIL 1 ★ 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
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 The federal endorsement of sponsors intended. Please drink responsibly.

Local attractions open daily

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Information, Tickets and Travel has tickets to local attractions, open daily. Purchase discounted tickets to the San Antonio Zoo, Buckhorn & Rangers Museum, Mirror Maze or Laser Vault, Laser Quest, ZDT Amusement Park, Ripley's Believe it or Not®, Natural Bridge Caverns and Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch. Tickets to the San Antonio Tours includes the Tower of Americas Observation Deck, Trolley Hopper, Rio River Boat and the "Blue Skies of Texas," a 3-dimensional movie. Plus discounted tickets for SeaWorld San Antonio® and Six Flags® Fiesta Texas. For more information, call 808-1378.

The JBSA-Randolph Information, Tickets and Travel

has tickets to local attractions, open daily. Purchase discounted tickets to Ripley's Believe it or Not®, Wax Museum, Haunted Adventure, Guinness World Record Museum, Natural Bridge Caverns, Natural Wildlife Park, the San Antonio Zoo, K1 Speed and the San Antonio Aquarium. Stop by ITT in the Community Services Mall, building 895, to purchase tickets. For more information, call 652-5142.

Military & Family Readiness

Key Spouses attend annual training

The Key Spouses and Key Spouse Mentors attend a Suicide Awareness and Prevention training and a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training March 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center. Please call to reserve a seat. For more information, call 671-3722.

Transitioning service members prepare for the future

JBSA patrons separating or retiring from the military are encouraged to attend the Transition Information Program March 20, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Community Center to learn about veteran's education benefits, civilian health care, career transitioning, networking opportunities, and housing and property markets. To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/jtgbj5k>. For more information, call 221-9255.

Mandatory financial training for First Duty Officers

Second lieutenants, first lieutenants, and captains assigned to their first permanent duty station must attend a mandatory financial training to review all aspects of finances to include pay, entitlements, insurance, credit management, Thrift Savings Plan and more at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center, March 21, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please call to reserve a seat. For more information, call 652-5321.

Military families reconnect with a campout

Key spouses, Family Readiness Groups, Ombudsman, Hearts Apart, Warriors in Transition and their families disconnect from devices and reconnect as a family with team building activities, games, a nature hike and more during an overnight campout, April 7-8 at JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake. Register before March 21; limited space is available. For more information, call 221-2418.

Hiring Heroes Career Fair is held

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center hosts the Hiring Heroes Career Fair March 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Sam Houston Community Center. The Hiring Heroes Career Fair is a Department of Defense initiative to provide continuing outreach, recruitment assistance and services to wounded, ill, injured and transitioning Service members, Veterans, spouses and primary caregivers through organizing and conducting specialized career fairs to increase awareness of job opportunities. The career fair brings government and federal agencies and private sector corporations together to market and offer career opportunities. For more information, call 571-372-2123.

Workshop provides insight on credit

Participants attend the Credit Score – What is it? Workshop, March 29, 10-11:30 a.m., at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center to learn how to interpret a credit report score and correct common errors. To register or for more information, call 652-5321.

Teens and young adults prepare for employment

Youth and young adults begin their search for summer jobs March 31, 5-7 p.m., at the JBSA-Lackland Youth Center. This program is open to Department of Defense ID cardholders 13-22 years. For more information, call 671-3722.

Outdoor Recreation

Archery takes on another dimension

The JBSA-Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center hosts a three-dimensional archery competition March 4, 18 and March 25-26, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is 8-10 a.m. and the course must be completed by 1 p.m. The Fun Shoot registration is 8-11 a.m. Fun shoot cost is \$5 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired, \$15 per person for all others 13 years and older and youth 12 years and younger shoot for \$5. The competition fee is \$15 for E1-E4, active duty or medically retired and \$20 per person for all others 13 years and older. For more information, call 295-7577.

Participants wear green and receive a discount

Wear something green to play Saint Patrick's Day paintball at the JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation Center March 18, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and receive 1,000 paintballs for \$30 a person for all day play. For more information, call 925-5533 or 925-5532.

Boat rental prices are reduced

Rent any boat at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake for half price during March. Completion of the Boater's safety course is required for rental. This course can be completed at the Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake or at any JBSA outdoor recreation location. Please allow a minimum of two hours to review the video and test. For more information, call 1-830-226-5357.

Eberle Park available for gatherings

Reserve space at the JBSA-Randolph Eberle Park for the next family gathering or office party. The cost to rent a pavilion is \$35, the grill and serving house are \$20 each and all the facilities cost \$50. Head to Outdoor Recreation in the Community Services Mall, building 895, to reserve Eberle Park. For more information, call 652-5142.

Boats and campers available for Spring Break

JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation has campers and boats available for patrons planning a spring break family adventure. Outdoor Recreations has campers that can accommodate five to eight people, generators and boats including fishing, ski and pontoon. For more information, call 925-5532 or 925-5533.

Youth and Children

First Steps baseball registration begins

Register children 3-5 years for the JBSA-Randolph Youth Sports First Steps Baseball instructional program.

First Steps teaches the basic fundamentals of baseball in harmony with the gross motor movements of pre-school and early school age children. In addition, parents are required to participate as an extension of the instructor so that the element of fear is eliminated. A current physical and immunization record are required at the time of registration. The cost of the program is \$35 for six weeks of one-hour instruction. For more information, call 652-3298.

Youth are invited to participate for free

There is no membership needed to participate in the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs clubs, activities or open recreation during March 12-18. Check out the preteen game room, teen zone, club meetings and activities. This program does not include instructional classes, league sports or School Age care programs. Stop by for a monthly calendar of events to see what is offered during these weeks. Membership cards cost \$36 per year. For more information, call 652-3298.

Spring Break Camps offered

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs hosts spring break camps for youth 11-18 years March 13-17, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$130 for the full week, which includes breakfast, lunch, snack and a field trip. A daily rate of \$30 per day is also available for those that only need one or two days of care. This price includes breakfast, lunch, snack and daily activities. Camp is held at the Watkins Terrace Youth Center, building 1630. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-4492.

Join JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Program for a school-age care spring break camp for youth 5-10 years March 13-17, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fees are based on total family income. For more information, call 221-4871.

USO hosts a teen night

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs March 17, 6-11 p.m., for a United Services Organization Teen Night. Enjoy great partnership with the downtown USO. This event is geared towards youth 14-18 years. The evening includes lots of fun, exciting activities from computer games and movies to cooking class and more. Check with staff for permission slips and registration forms. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-4492.

Teens attend a St. Patrick's Day social

All teens and preteens are invited to attend a Saint Patrick's Day social at JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs March 17. The evening includes pizza and bingo. For more information, call 652-3298.

Parents offered a break

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Center gives parents a much-needed break through the Give Parents a Break or Parents' Night Out program March 17, 6-10 p.m. Parents are worry free to enjoy themselves as the kids, 5 years, and in kindergarten, to 12 years, are provided snacks and entertained with activities and games. The cost is \$25 per child with a multiple child discount or free with a Give Parents a Break referral. Late pickup is subject to \$5 for the first five minutes, then \$3 for every minute after that. A minimum number of participants is required. For more information, call 652-3298.

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs gives parents a much-needed break through the Give Parents a Break or Parents' Night Out program March 25, 1-5 p.m. Parents are worry free to enjoy themselves as the kids, 5 years, and in kindergarten, to 12 years, are provided snacks and entertained with activities and games. The cost is \$25 per child with a multiple child discount or free with a Give Parents a Break referral. Late pickup is subject to \$5 for the first five minutes, then \$3 for every minute after that. A minimum number of participants is required. For more information, call 671-2388.

Basketball is played at midnight

Play midnight basketball March 18, 7 p.m. to midnight with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs. Youth 11 years and older may participate. Youth 11-13 years play 7-9 p.m. and youth 14-18 years play 9 p.m. to midnight. The evening includes snacks, music, basketball and fun. For more information, call 221-3502.

Sports practice begins

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston baseball, softball and t-ball practice starts March 20. Registration for youth 5-14 years continues until teams are complete. For more information, call 221-5519.

School Age Care Summer Camp registration begins

Parents looking for a fun and safe environment filled with activities for children 5-12 years are invited to register kids at JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs for summer camp. Camps are held June through August, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with activities including bowling, swimming, skating and more. Cost varies by total family income. For more information, call 671-2388.

Preschool enrichment program offered

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Child Development Program offers a part-day enrichment program in School Age Programs, building 1705, for children 3-5 years in a setting where cognitive, social, emotional, physical and language development needs can be met. This a first-come first-served program allowing 24 at each site. Registration has started and is open until filled. Weekly fees are based on total family income. Registration takes place at Parent Central, building 2797, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 221-4871.

STAY CONNECTED

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LACKLAND

Critical blood donations save lives

By Senior Airman Krystal Wright

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Receiving the gift of blood can mean the difference between life or death for those in need. For patients to receive the life-saving substance, others must be willing to donate.

"Nobody plans to need blood," said Tracy Parmer, Armed Services Blood Bank Center-San Antonio public affairs specialist and blood donor recruiter. "That's why we tell people to donate, because one day it might be you, your family or your Airman who need it."

The ASBBC-SA, which includes the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland facility and Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at JBAS-Fort Sam Houston, supports services members down range in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition, they support San Antonio Military Medical Center, the local

Veterans Affairs hospital, as well as special missions, such as natural disasters.

"When you are injured in Iraq or Afghanistan, you go to Landstuhl, Germany," Parmer said. "Then, when you stabilize, you go to one of two places: Walter Reed Army Medical Center or SAMMC. So, we lend support for those in Afghanistan and when they transfer here for the rest of their treatment."

According to the ASBP's website, militaryblood.dod.mil/, more than 1.5 million units of blood have been provided to treat battlefield illnesses and injuries. They also support peacetime needs and provide blood to military hospitals for scheduled and emergency procedures.

Regular donors are



SENIOR AIRMAN KRYSTAL WRIGHT

Volunteers donate platelets Feb. 14 at the Armed Services Blood Bank Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

vital in ensuring year-round blood supply. To fulfill their quota, ASBBC-SA must collect about 1,400 units a month.

One difficulty ASBP centers face in collecting donations is that they are only able to collect from people who are Department of Defense affiliated and have base access:

service members, their dependents, retirees, DOD civilians and contractors.

"On average we get about 150 to 200 (units) a week from trainees," Parmer said. "The rest come from permanent party members."

When the ASBBC-SA doesn't collect enough product for SAMMC and

the VA hospital, "they can try to buy units from the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, but they might not have enough because they have their own hospitals to take care of," Parmer said.

Parmer recognizes not every potential donor is able to go to the center. Organizations can set up a

donation drive at their facility and she will provide the center's mobile blood donation center.

"This center takes care of Randolph, Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Camp-Bullis," she said. "We have traveled as far as Corpus Christi and Laughlin Air Force Base. We travel to get everything we need."

Getting donations is important to her on a personal level.

"If you ever get the chance to witness someone who comes in as a trauma patient, lifeless, and then watch the doctors give them blood and they wake up ... it's an amazing thing," Parmer said. "It is such an amazing thing to know you were a part in making that happen."

Those interested in donating blood or being a point of contact for a blood drive can call 292-8145 or 292-8100.

Analyst turned Chaplain provides spiritual resiliency to troops

By Lori A. Bultman

25TH AIR FORCE

When the search for a new chaplain began at the 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, who could have imagined an ISR analyst would be selected to fill those empty shoes.

Chaplain (Maj.) W. James 'Jim' Bridgman said he can see that his ISR career prepared him for this assignment.

"I understand the stress of shift work and the challenge of warfighting during the day and then going home to family," he said.

"It can be difficult to compartmentalize that stress. It is not the same as downrange, where we have opportunities to process challenges after a shift with colleagues," he said.

Sometimes ISR Airmen deal with issues in their mind, Bridgman said. They might ask

themselves, 'Did I make the right decision?'

Bridgman finds that if he can connect with people on their level, then he can help them sort through their problems, building better resiliency.

Resiliency is the ability to recover readily from stress, illness, depression, adversity or the like.

"I genuinely care for the people I interact with. What I do is who I am," Bridgman

said. "I love hearing Airmen's stories and helping them connect the pieces so they can see when they've had a rough patch."

To help the ISR Airmen, Bridgman started implementing spiritual meditation and religious programs to help increase performance in every area of an Airman's life.

"I spend a lot of time talking to folks using the tactics and techniques of the top perform-

ers, to help them increase their performance in every part of their life," he said.

Bridgman said the position at the 363rd was the opportunity he had been waiting for; a chance to be a full-time Wingman.

"The Wingman idea is central to Air Force culture," Bridgman said. "Wingmen take care of Wingmen and spirituality can be a part of that. It can make a difference."

502nd LRS wins four AETC awards

By Jeremy Gerlach
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio's 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron is off to a strong start in 2017, taking home four Air Education and Training Command awards in January.

At JBSA-Lackland, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Hong, 502nd LRS NCOIC of cargo movement, Pierre Anderson, 502nd LRS compliance and operations manager, and James Williams, 502nd LRS director, took home honors for Outstanding AF Logistics Readiness NCO of the Year, Outstanding Logistics Readiness Civilian of the Year Category II and Outstanding Logistics Readiness Civilian of the Year Category III, respectively.

The squadron's fourth award recipient, Master Sgt. Ryan Love, AETC equipment manager assigned to JBSA-Randolph, was recognized as the Outstanding AF Logistics Readiness Enlisted Staff of the Year.

These labels might sound complicated, but Lt. Col Andrew Marsiglia, 502nd LRS commander, said the awards are simply meant to recognize the skill it takes to move people and cargo across the world at a moment's notice.

"These guys in my squadron who won these awards — they all get the job done, day-in, day-out," Marsiglia said. "Our line of work demands a quick turnaround, and they meet this challenge."

Hong, who is in charge of inbound and out-



AIRMAN JUSTINE RHO

Medical supplies from the Air Force Medical Operations Agency are loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III Sept. 26, 2014, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Kelly Field Annex.

bound cargo for JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said he also handled larger shipments while on a six-month deployment that spanned mid-2016 to early 2017.

"Here at all three JBSA locations, the simplest way to describe my job is that I take care of Airmen," Hong said. "That's what I enjoy doing."

While deployed, Hong had fewer Airmen under his wing, and focused mainly on cargo.

"I was more of a 'worker bee' overseas," he explained. "But I really got to see how I directly impacted the war fighters. You'd see something pop up on the news — at-the-moment stuff that was happening in the Middle East — and hours later my ship-

ment is arriving to help."

In late 2016, for example, Hong helped respond to a catastrophic fire in northern Syria. After the U.S. State Department called on the Air Force to send fire-fighting foam to the affected area, Hong was part of a crew that worked 14 hours to ship the supplies the same day.

"Little things like that really got me fired up," Hong added.

Hong has more than one reason to be excited, Marsiglia said. In addition to the AETC award, Hong has been selected for promotion to master sergeant in March.

"There's nobody more deserving of a promotion than him," Marsiglia said. "He's absolutely one of our top technical sergeants, and he's our go-to guy for transporta-

tion and cargo movement. We feel Hong is a complete expert who (displayed an) outstanding performance on his last deployment, and he's a fantastic leader here at LRS."

"I feel really blessed," Hong added. "I have great leaders here — I'm not really doing anything differently than I've always done it — but I'm lucky that these leaders took the time to write an awards package for me. It's an honor."

While Hong handles Airmen and cargo, fellow award recipient Anderson handles quality assurance and staff assessments, while also coordinating policies and procedures between cargo flights.

"What I do is more behind-the-scenes stuff that helps keep the LRS machine running," An-

derson explained.

Keeping that squadron running is no small feat, since the 502nd LRS is responsible for thousands of flights that move tens of thousands of personnel and huge tonnages of cargo across the globe each year, Anderson said.

"The days are always different," he noted. "The work might be the same, but there's always a twist to the mission each day that keeps it from being routine."

Marsiglia said Anderson never backs down from these challenges.

"He's a truly humble person who is all about taking care of other people, putting others before himself," Marsiglia said. "He's just done fantastic work this past year, keeping all of our programs on point."

Anderson was quick to chalk up any individual accolades to his team's hard work.

"That award might have my name on it, but the entire 502nd LRS won that award," he added.

Williams, another civilian Airman in the unit, also received high praise from Marsiglia.

"He's my right-hand man," said Marsiglia, noting that Williams helps the squadron navigate efficiency issues and partnerships with local government.

"He's just a calming, refined, professional leader in every shape and form," Marsiglia added. "There's no problem too big for him — he keeps the mission moving forward. Absolutely the best civilian I've ever worked with."

LACKLAND BRIEFS

Sports registration open

Registration: Feb. 1-28
Youth ages 5-18 can register for T-ball, baseball and softball Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. The cost is \$50 per participant. Current physical and immunization records, to include flu vaccination, is required at the time of registration. Practice begins in March.

2017 Joint Services Luncheon

Date/Time: March 21
Location: Local venue
The Spouses' Club of Fort Sam Houston Area invites the Fort Sam Houston, Randolph and Lackland Spouses' Club members and their guests to the 2017 Joint Services "Celebrate Service" luncheon. Contact scfshreservations@gmail.com for cost, time and location. All RSVPs must be received by March 7 and seating is limited.

Single parent support group

Date/Time: March 2, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Youth Center
A forum for both long- and short-term single parents to connect, share resources and ways to overcome challenges. Lunch is provided. Call 671-3723 to register.

Multimedia camp

Register: Feb. 1-27
Date/Time: March 13-17, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
This camp for youth ages 9 to 13 will explore various forms of media. The cost is \$130 per participant and lunch is included. All required paperwork to include current shot records with flu vaccination must be on file prior to registration. Register Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. Call 671-2388 for more details.

Spring Break camp

Registration: Through March 1
Date/Time: March 13-17, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
This program is open to youth in K-6th grade, ages 5-12 years. To register, visit MilitaryChildCare.com. Fees are based on total family income and all required paperwork to include current shot records with flu shot vaccination must be on file at the Youth Center. Call 671-2388 for more details.

Presidential honor bestowed on 25th Air Force officer

By Lori A. Bultman

25TH AIR FORCE

When the President of the United States travels, there is an advance team that arrives weeks ahead to handle airport logistics. These team members volunteer for the job and are the “best of the best” at what they do. Maj. Francisco “Cisco” Leach, 25th Air Force deputy chief of safety was recently selected from 96 agents as the 2016 Presidential Advance Agent of the Year.

“Winning the award was a very humbling experience,” Leach said. “The Presidential Advance Agency is composed of some of the sharpest officers in the Air Force. It’s an honor and privilege to be part of a very special mission.”

Being a Presidential Advance Agent is considered an additional duty, which Leach eagerly volunteered to take on.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gen. John W. Raymond (right), commander, Air Force Space Command, presents an Air Force One model aircraft to Maj. Francisco Leach during the 2016 Advance Agent of the Year ceremony.

“I applied for the Presidential Advance Agent program shortly after I moved to 25th Air Force. I then successfully interviewed and was hired in September 2015,” he said.

“This additional duty requires me to go on five to 10 presidential or vice-presidential trips per year,” he said.

“Last year, I supported 10 POTUS/VPO-TUS trips.”

Leach considers his agent assignments a special way to serve his country.

“This was a unique opportunity, working for an agency with a “no fail” mission directly supporting POTUS/VPOTUS travels,” Leach said. “We show up one or two weeks prior to the arrival of the president or vice-president at a destination and coordinate all Air Force One logistics at the airport to ensure a safe arrival and departure.”

Leach, native of Puerto Rico, also likes that advance agent assignments allow him to work with numerous embassies and consulates.

One of the most important trips Leach made was to Cuba.

“It was the first time in 88 years a U.S. president had visited Cuba,” he said. “It was definitely the toughest and

most rewarding trip I’ve been to.”

In a letter to Leach’s commander, Col. R. Bruce Ybarra, Presidential Airlift Group commander, expressed his appreciation for Leach’s work on the trip.

“... he flawlessly coordinated and deconflicted the arrival and departure of U.S. support aircraft and personnel. Major Leach and his team battled language barriers, complex security issues, diplomatic clearance concerns, and a host of other problems that are associated with nearly a ninety-year U.S. absence,” Ybarra wrote. “His superior Spanish-language skills proved invaluable, helping multiple White House agencies bridge the communication gap and get the mission accomplished. His distinctive performance, positive attitude and flexibility led to a successful mission and significantly contributed to the safety and security of Air Force One.”

RANDOLPH

Air Education and Training Command's first civil service maintenance group activates

By Randy Martin

12TH FLYING TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The first civil service aircraft maintenance organization in Air Education and Training Command to become a group is the 12th Maintenance Group. An activation ceremony was held Feb. 10 inside Hangar 41 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The group was formerly a directorate.

"We have been working on this reorganization forever," said Robert West, 12th Maintenance Group director. West and his team has spent six years on the initiative to transform an organization that supports pilot and combat systems officer training in two states.

The group has a squadron at Naval Air Station Pensacola and two squad-

rons at JBSA-Randolph. Each squadron is led by a civilian director.

"The Air Force organizes in wings, groups and squadrons so everything revolves around those types of units. We can officially take our place next to the 12th Operations Group and the 479th and the 306th Flying Training Groups instead of being a block of 600 manning positions of the wing staff," West said.

The reorganization comes at a time when Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein has placed more focus on squadrons as "the basic building block organization in the Air Force."

"It works right into the Chief's plan. We were really getting tired of being a square peg in a round hole," said West to a gathering of hundreds

of civilian employees and Airmen from throughout the 12th Flying Training Wing.

"We have an identity, something to build a heritage around, and a structure that is recognized by everyone in the Air Force," West said.

West believes name recognition will translate into more applicants for vital jobs maintaining airplanes.

"A lot of people, when they go into USA Jobs and they are looking for a maintenance job, they don't know what a directorate is. Now they'll see 12th Maintenance Group and they'll say, 'I know what that is and I want to do that job.'"

West expects maintenance directorates at Altus Air Force Base and Laughlin AFB may also reorganize as groups.



RANDY MARTIN

Civilian employees with the newly activated 12th maintenance Group activate the group's three squadrons during a ceremony Feb. 10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. The group is the first civil service maintenance directorate in Air Education and Training Command to reorganize as a group.

RANDOLPH BRIEFS

Munitions closed

Date/Time: March 6-10

The 12th Flying Training Wing munitions offices and munitions storage area will be closed March 6-10. Only emergency issues can be addressed during this period. Call 652-6780/3361/6981 for details.

2017 Joint Services luncheon

Date/Time: March 21

Location: Local venue

The Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area invites the Fort Sam Houston, Randolph and Lackland Spouses' Club members and their guests to the 2017 Joint Services' Celebrate Service Luncheon. Contact scsfshreservations@gmail.com for cost, time and location. All

RSVPs must be received by March 7, and seating is limited.

JBSA parent/teen workshop

Date/Time: Feb. 25/10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: JBSA-Randolph Chapel Annex
Parents and their teens will learn to communicate more effectively, accept responsibility and reach conflict resolution. Call 652-2448 to register.

Coaches needed

Individuals who wish to volunteer to coach youth baseball or softball may contact the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center at 652-3298. Coaches are needed for T-ball, coach pitch and regular baseball/softball for ages 5 and up. An application and background check are required. Those interested may apply through mid-March.

Thrift Shop sale

Date/Time: March 4/9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Building 1048

A "Bring Your Own Big Stuff" sale takes place in the parking lot, weather permitting. In case of rain, the sale will be canceled, but the main store will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 658-5990 for details.

Healthy Rally

Date/Time: March 25/9 a.m.

Location: JBSA-Randolph Heritage Park
The 59th Medical Wing Health Rally will feature 5K and 9K runs, and information booths representing JBSA medical units, military and family readiness centers, youth centers and other organizations. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. for runners. Registration is free. Call 652-2448 for details.

Retiree Appreciation Day

Date/Time: April 8/8:15 a.m.-noon

Location: Kendrick Club

The Randolph Retiree Appreciation Day honors military retirees and spouses in the San Antonio area. Ceremonies begin at 8:30 a.m. Representatives from more than 35 organizations will provide information on products and services available to retirees. For details, call 652-6880.

JBSA Half Marathon

Date/Time: April 30/7:30 a.m.

Location: JBSA-Randolph Heritage Park
Participants receive a T-shirt. Cost is \$30. To register, visit <http://www.IAAPweb.com>. The deadline to register is April 26. The event is open to all DOD ID cardholders. For details, call 652-7263.

Rally promoting health, fitness to unite JBSA

By Robert Goetz
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An event emphasizing health, fitness and nutrition will be offered to Joint Base San Antonio beneficiaries next month.

The 59th Medical Wing Health Rally — featuring 5K and 9K runs, and information booths representing JBSA medical units, military and family readiness centers, youth centers and other organizations — is set for 9 a.m. March 25 at JBSA-Randolph's Airmen's Heritage Park.

"The purpose of the 59th Medical Wing Health Rally is to promote health and fitness, as well as nutritional awareness, by proactively reaching out to our beneficiaries in the San Antonio area in a fun, pep rally-like format," said Gina Ramirez, 359th Medical Operations Squadron outreach/resiliency coordinator.

The Fit Kid 5K returns to the event this year and will be joined by a competitive 9K run.

"We've never done the event on this scale," Ramirez said. "Last year's Fit Kid 5K was a huge success with approxi-



SENIOR AIRMAN STORMY ARCHER

This year's Fit Kid 5K and health fair at Airmen's Heritage Park at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph is March 25.

mately 300 participants. We are expecting at least that many this year."

The 9K run is open to beneficiaries who are high school age and older. Medals will be awarded to the top three male

and top three female finishers.

Organizations that will be represented at information booths include medical units such as family health, women's health, pediatrics and optometry; the New Parent Support

Program; military and family readiness centers; youth programs; chaplain offices; and Military OneSource.

The health rally celebrates National Nutrition Month but expands on that theme, Ramir-

ez said.

"This year we widened the scope to include health, fitness, family and nutrition," she said. "We want to take a broader holistic approach to mind-body-behavior."

In addition to getting children moving, the event will bring awareness of safety and overall health, Ramirez said.

"With the many base organizations participating, it will also be a great time to recognize all the resources we have for children and adults," she said.

The health rally enhances the Air Force mission by reaching out to the warfighter, veterans and their families by promoting a healthy lifestyle, Ramirez said.

"We do this by making available a variety of health-related organizations while also offering a few fitness-related activities," she said. "A key component to becoming a highly-reliability organization in the health care industry is to take the initiative to help our beneficiaries from becoming ill in the first place."

Participants in the 5K and 9K runs may register and purchase a T-shirt at www.59mdw.org.

Notifications to eligible Airmen begin for BRS

By Kat Bailey
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen eligible for the new Blended Retirement System, or BRS, began receiving email notifications Feb. 10 from myPers with information regarding their benefits so they can make the decision best suited for their individual needs.

The myPers notification includes details of the new retirement system, a link to mandatory training about the opt-in process and how to enroll in the BRS. While the

one-year window in which to make a decision doesn't open until Jan. 1, 2018, all Airmen should take advantage of training and informational resources as they become available.

Only those active Airmen who, as of Dec. 31, 2017, have served fewer than 12 years, or Reserve Airmen who have accrued fewer than 4,320 retirement points, will have the option of electing BRS or remaining in the legacy retirement system. Airmen with greater years or points will be grandfathered under their legacy retirement plan.

The new BRS will ensure nearly 85 percent of military members leave the service with retirement savings, as opposed to just 19 percent today. It is one of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits of the last 70 years. For the first time, service members will receive automatic and matching contributions from the Defense Department to their retirement and have control over their investments.

The opt-in course provides Airmen an understanding of both the current and new retirement systems so they can make

a fully-informed decision, and includes component-specific scenarios as well as retirement comparison calculators to assist with decision making. Airmen can use knowledge gained from this course combined with their personal assessments of career goals and financial situations to decide which system is best.

After completing the mandatory opt-in course, eligible Airmen should provide a copy of the training certificate to their unit training manager. Prior to the opt-in window, Airmen are advised to contact their personal financial advisers for additional

counseling and assistance. Counselors at the local Airman and Family Readiness Center can also assist with financial literacy training.

BRS information is continuously updated on myPers. Click "Retirement" from any military landing page. In addition, a live chat feature on BRS is available for Airmen. To chat live with a Total Force Service Center representative, go to the page and allow about 30 to 60 seconds to enable a representative to come online.

For details, visit myPers.af.mil.

CLASSES

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be the site of a session called the “Heroes at Home Financial Event.”

The “Heroes at Home Financial Event” will feature speaker, author and family financial expert Ellie Kay and other financial advisers telling participants how to live rich for less, improve their credit score and save for the future. Signed books on financial topics and other prizes will be given out during the event.

The new Blended Retirement System will be a focus at all three locations.

Bob Williams, JBSA-Randolph M&FRC community readiness consultant, said service members will learn about the

basic features and concepts of the new retirement system that goes into effect next year and how it compares to the traditional legacy system.

“Less than 20 percent of service members retire from the military,” he said. “Under the new Blended Retirement System, every person who joins the military — whether it’s for the initial commitment only or a longer period of time — will begin the process to build their retirement nest egg. Previously, there was no retirement advantage if they didn’t serve for 20 years.”

A session titled “Couponing in the 21st Century” will help shoppers save money.

“This class will focus on the different ways to save money and balance

out that stressor in your life,” said presenter Amanda Griffin, JBSA-Lackland M&FRC community readiness specialist. “Participants will learn how to save on travelling, eating out and using their military discount; get rebates after shopping; and sell items on apps and social media. This class will touch on a little bit of everything when it comes to saving money in everyday life.

“This class is all about putting more money back into your pocket and not paying full price when you don’t have to,” she said.

Military Saves Week also reminds members of the military community to focus on their saving habits by taking the Savers Pledge online at militarysaves.org.

Financial readiness is especially important for service members, Lanier said.

“With service members facing unique and complex requirements of deployments, family separation, frequent moves, spouse employment issues and other stressful situations, the importance of service members having their financial affairs in order takes on a heightened level of importance,” he said.

Financial readiness and mission readiness go hand-in-hand, Williams said.

“What we try to do with Military Saves Week and our classes throughout the year is help our military community understand the importance of financial readiness,” he said.

SOLDIERS

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can have the biggest impact, providing our educators the tools required to execute their job effectively,” Barden added. “By replenishing those cupboards with much need supplies, we can help ensure both the teachers and students have what they need to get them to the end of the year.”

As part of the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Adopt-A-School program, the battalion’s Soldiers are regular fixtures at East Terrell Hills Elementary

School, with 50 cadre members volunteering more than 1,500 hours each year to events such as career days, festivals, appreciation breakfasts, health fairs, clothing drive, and reading days. During career days, students saw demonstrations on microbiology, physical therapy, pharmacy, medical imaging and combat medical first aid.

The battalion supports two mentorship programs, Adopt-a-Student (similar to the Big Brother/Big Sister program) and Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students), which is a program providing positive male role models

in and around the school. The battalion also participates in East Terrell Hills Community outreach programs, helping to build a sense of community, trust and support between surrounding neighborhoods and the school.

“They directly impact our students by mentoring, providing resources and being available to our community,” said Jennifer Gutierrez, East Terrell Hills Elementary principal, describing the support from the 264th Medical Battalion. “Endless hours have been dedicated to our school. They consistently support and assist our campus, with-

out hesitation. We are so grateful and fortunate to have the 264th Medical Battalion as a community partner.”

East Terrell Hills Elementary School is part of the Northeast Independent School District. At an award ceremony in December 2016, Brian G. Gottardy, NEISD Superintendent of Schools, honored the battalion for its support. The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Adopt-A-School Program is part of the many activities between the military and local communities providing Soldiers the opportunity to give back to the residents of San Antonio.